

JULY 30, 2023

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels. Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service. The Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.



Covenant is proud to be an **Earth Care Congregation**, a **More Light Church** – supporting the LGBTQ+ community, and a **PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church** – committed to dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality.

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ office@cpjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"

*(As you participate in worship today, you're invited to rise in body or spirit at * and read aloud the **bolded** responses together with the congregation.)*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

GREETING

One: If God is for us, who can be against us?

All: Nothing can separate us from God's love.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 128

One: Happy are those who revere the Lord and walk in God's ways!
The Lord says to them:

All: You will be blessed and prosperous.

You will be a fruitful vine in the heart of your house.

One: Your children will grow up around your table; they will spring up like olive trees.

All: Those who revere God will be blessed in this way.

They will see prosperity in the land.

One: May God grant justice to those who call upon the Lord,
so that the people dwell in peace.

All: Blessed be God who orders our way and guides our steps in the path of life.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 187

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God be gracious – when we fall short of your glory, when we do not act like your children, when we do not deserve your promises. Christ have mercy – when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do. Holy Spirit intercede; breathe again into our lives, form us into the image of Christ, that we might never feel separate or far from you again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, truly nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In his name, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Because you are forgiven and redeemed, be at peace,
trusting that in God’s love all things work together for good.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (*p. 569—OT*)

Psalm 119:124-135

***HYMN OF INVITATION** # 824

“There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

SECOND LESSON (*p. 158—NT*)

Romans 8:26-39

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Beth Jarvis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Confession of 1967

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women in mercy. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF BLESSING** # 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assist Devices are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church office with any other issues.

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out a Visitor Card and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, you are welcome to join us in discipleship in our community of faith and service; Pastor Maggie would be happy to talk to you about your journey and church membership.

Pastor Maggie is still on vacation. She’ll be back in the office on Tuesday. If you have an emergency, contact Tina in the church office at 423-282-5324 or on her cell at 423-342-8351.

This morning we welcome back to Covenant the Rev. Beth Jarvis. Beth is the director of the Ministry Resource Center at Milligan University, where she helps ministers connect with each other to thrive in ministry. She is an ordained minister and holds an MDiv from Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan. She and her husband, Daniel Silliman, live in Johnson City, TN.

DEADLINE IS TODAY! COFFEE FROM CAFÉ JUSTO!

We are placing another group order for coffee from Café Justo as part of our partnership with Frontera de Cristo. Please use the green order forms in your bulletins or on the table and specify ‘Ground’ or ‘Whole Bean’ **AND** ‘Dark’ or ‘Medium’!! **The deadline to turn in your order form is TODAY.**

SUMMER HANDBELL SCHEDULE

- **August 2 and August 9:** 6 PM Summer Handbells rehearse.
- **August 13:** Summer Handbells rehearse at 10:30 AM prior to service.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Lauri Zembower

Accompanist: Van Potterton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood